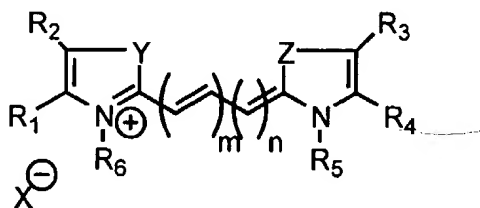


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim ~~16~~¹ (Currently Amended) A chiral detecting reagent comprising the structure (I):



(I)

~~wherein R₁ and R₂, and R₃ and R₄ taken together each independently comprise a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or polycyclic aryl or heteroaromatic moiety; wherein m is 1, 2, or 3; wherein n is 0 or 1; wherein Z or Y each independently comprise CR₂, wherein each occurrence of the functional moiety R, is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; NR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; O; S; or Se; wherein X is a non-coordinating negative counter ion; and wherein R₅ or R₆ each independently comprise lower alkyl, a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker, with the proviso that at least one of R₅ or R₆ is a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR).~~

wherein R₁ and R₂, and R₃ and R₄ taken together each independently comprise a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or polycyclic aryl or heteroaromatic moiety;

m is 1, 2, or 3;

n is 0 or 1;

Z and Y independently comprise O, S, Se, CR₂ or NR; wherein each occurrence of the functional moiety R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl;

X is a non-coordinating negative counter ion; and

R₅ and R₆ independently comprise lower alkyl, a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker, with the proviso that at least one of R₅ and R₆ is a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR).

²
Claim ~~17~~ (Currently Amended) The ~~compound~~ chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein R₁ and R₂ and R₃ and R₄ taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C₆H₆; wherein each of X and Y Z and Y are -C(CH₃)₂; wherein the linker moiety comprises -(CH)_p-(CO)-; wherein p is 1-5, and wherein the chiral reagent comprises a chiral acylating agent having the general structure: ~~(NH)-(CH(R_x))-COOH~~, -N(R')-CH(R_x)-COOH, where R_x comprises ~~a chiral an~~ an amino acid residue side chain, and R' is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together with the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled)

³
Claim ~~22~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ¹~~16~~, wherein R₁ and R₂ and R₃ and R₄ taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C₆H₆.

⁴
Claim ~~23~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ¹~~16~~, wherein Z and Y are each -C(CH₃)₂.

⁵
Claim ~~24~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ¹~~16~~, wherein X is BF₄, PF₆, ClO₄, TsO, I or Br.

⁶
Claim ~~25~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ¹~~16~~, wherein one of R₅ and R₆ is methyl, and the other comprises a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker.

⁷
Claim ~~26~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ^{1 2 5}~~16, 17 or 23~~, wherein the linker moiety comprises -(CH)_p-(CO)-; wherein p is 1-5.

8
Claim ~~27~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~16~~, wherein m and n are each 1.

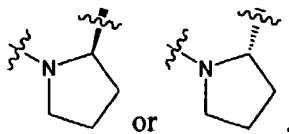
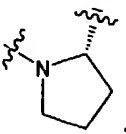
9
Claim ~~28~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~16~~, wherein m is 2 and n is 1.

10
Claim ~~29~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~16~~, wherein the chiral agent comprises a chiral acylating agent.

11
Claim ~~30~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~29~~, wherein the chiral acylating agent has the general structure: $-N(R')-CH(R_x)-COOH$, where R_x comprises an amino acid side chain; and R' is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

12
Claim ~~31~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~30~~, wherein R' is hydrogen and R_x is methyl, ethyl, *iso*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, benzyl or cyclohexylmethyl.

13
Claim ~~32~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~30~~, wherein R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered

heterocycle having the structure  or .

14
Claim ~~33~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~16~~, wherein the chiral reagent (CR) or the chiral reagent and linker (L-CR) is attached at any one of R_1-R_6 , or as substitutions of other moieties thereof attached at R_1-R_6 .

15
Claim ~~34~~ (New) The chiral detecting reagent of claim ~~26~~, wherein p is 4.